

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. 1. A guidewire advancement device comprising:
a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end;
a flexible tube for holding the guidewire, the
flexible tube having a port;
a housing having an opening for feeding the
guidewire through, the housing being coupled to a
distal end of the flexible tube, and the housing
having a straightener thereon that includes a
straightener tube having a length and diameter to
straighten the curved distal end of the guidewire as
the guidewire is passed through the straightener tube;
and
an access mechanism to expose a portion of the
guidewire positioned and through which the portion of
the guidewire can be manually engaged.
 2. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 wherein
the access mechanism is an aperture on the flexible
tube.
 3. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 wherein
the access mechanism is an aperture on the housing.
 4. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 further
comprising a frictionally engaging element for
selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire.
 5. The guidewire advancement device of claim 4 wherein
the access mechanism is an aperture and the
frictionally engaging element overlies the aperture.
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6. The guidewire advancement device of claim 5 wherein ¹the aperture is on the flexible tube and ^{casing}further comprising a second aperture on the flexible tube.

5 7. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 wherein the access mechanism is an aperture and further comprising a frictionally engaging element for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire.

10 8. The guidewire advancement device of claim 7 wherein the frictionally engaging element for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire has a plurality of rollers.

9. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 wherein the aperture is on the flexible tube.

15 10. The guidewire advancement device of claim 7 wherein the frictionally engaging element for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire has a slideable bar.

11. The guidewire advancement device of claim 10 wherein the aperture is on the flexible tube.

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12. The guidewire advancement device of claim 1 further comprising a retaining element for retaining the flexible tube in the shape of a loop.

25 13. The guidewire advancement device of claim 12 wherein the access mechanism is an aperture on the flexible tube and further comprising a frictionally engaging element having a plurality of roller for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire.

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14. The guidewire advancement device of claim 12 wherein the access mechanism is an aperture on the flexible tube and further comprising a frictionally engaging element having a slideable bar for selectively frictionally engaging the guidewire.

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a 15. The guidewire advancement device of claim 14 further comprising a cannula that receives the guidewire from the straightener.

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16. A guidewire advancement device for a flexible guidewire having a curved distal end, the guidewire advancement device comprising:
a flexible tube for containing the guidewire;
a housing having a housing tube for receiving the guidewire, the guidewire extending through a first end of the housing and through a second end of the housing;

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an aperture to expose a portion of the guidewire positioned in the flexible tube and through which the portion of the guidewire can be manually engaged; and

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a straightener that is connected to the housing tube and receives the guidewire displaced through the housing, the straightener including a straightener tube having a length and diameter to straighten the curved distal end of the guidewire.

25 17. The guidewire advancement device of claim 16 wherein the housing having a second housing tube for receiving a second portion of the guidewire.

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a 18. The guidewire advancement device of claim 16 further comprising a second aperture to expose a portion of the guidewire positioned in the ^{casing} flexible tube and

portion of the

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